

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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R 051450Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8825

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 1329

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GY, CU

SUBJ: CASTRO VISITS GUYANA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: CASTRO SPENT TWENTY-SIX HOURS IN GUYANA VISITING ITS MAJOR CITIES, GEORGETOWN AND LINDEN, WITH LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC POPULAR TURNOUT. CASTRO MADE NO SPEECHES AND HIS BUSY SCHEDULE ALLOWED ONLY BRIEF TALKS WITH GUYANESE OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

2. CUBAN PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO ARRIVED AFTERNOON OF SEPT 2 ABOARD CUBANA AIRLINES ILLUYSHIN 18. PRIMIN OF GUAYANA FORBES BURNHAM GREETED CUBAN LEADER AND ACCOMPANIED HIM INTO GEORGETOWN, WHERE THE FIRST STOP WAS TO PAY COURTESY CALL ON PRES OF GUYANA ARTHUR CHUNG. AFTER DINING WITH DPTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DR. PTOLEMY REID, CASTRO ATTENDED LARGE RECEPTION HELD IN HIS HONOR AT RESIDENCE OF PRIME MINISTER, WHICH TURNED INTO VIRTUAL MOB SCENE AS SOME 6,000 ATTENDEES BROKE THROUGH POLICE LINES AND BARRIERS IN

TOTAL BREAKDOWN OF DISCIPLINE IN FRENZY TO SEE AND TOUCH THE
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"REVOLUTIONARY HERO", AS ONE PAPER DESCRIBED HIM. AMONG DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, AMERICANS AND BRAZILIANS DID NOT ATTEND,

BUT ALL OTHERS DID, MOST NOTABLY COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN CHARGE'S.
LATER IN EVENING, SMALLER GATHERING, PRESUMABLY COMPOSED OF
CABINET MEMBERS
AND OTHER LUMINARIES, HELD INTO SMALL HOURS OF
MONDAY MORNING AT GUYBAU HOUSE WHERE CASTRO WAS UPUT UP.

3. ON SEPTEMBER 3, CASTRO TOURED GEORGETOWN AND LINDEN. CROWDS,
WHICH THROUGHOUT VISIT APPEARED WARM AND ENTHUSIASTIC, HAD BEST
LOOK AT CASTRO DURING STOP AT COMPANY PATH GARDEN IN GEORGE-
TOWN. THERE CASTRO PLANTED PALM TREE NEAR MONUMENT TO HEROS
OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, TITO, NEHRU, NASSER, NKRUMAH.
FOLLOWING THAT CEREMONY CASTRO TOURED GEORGETOWN WITH GEORGE-
TOWN MAYOR MRS. BERYL SIMON AND HER DEPUTY, FOLLOWED BY ACTING
MINISTER OF FON AFFRS DESMOND HOYTE. AFTER TOUR CASTRO WAS
DRIVEN TO LINDEN ACCOMPANIED BY HOYTE, WHERE HE SPENT AFTERNOON
VISITING BAUXITE MINING OPERATIONS. AT LINDEN, IN FRONT OF
ENTHUSIASTIC MINE WORKERS, CASTRO MADE SEVERAL BRIEF REMARKS,
HIS ONLY PUBLIC COMMENTS OF ENTIRE VISIT. CASTRO SAID GUYANESE
WERE RUNNING BAUXITE OPERATIONS BETTER THAN CANADIANS WHO OWNED
THEM PRIOR TO NATIONALIZATION IN 1971. CASTRO ADDED PEOPLE
KEPT IN POVERTY AND BACKWARDNESS BY IMPERIALISM NEED TO RECOVER
OWN RESOURCES. AFTER SHORT TOUR OF LINDEN, CASTRO RETURNED TO
GEORGETOWN. HE AND BURNHAM DEPARTED TOGETHER ABOARD
ILLUYSHIN 18 FOR PORT OF SPAIN MEETING WITH JAMAICAN PM MANLY
AND TRINIDADIAN PM WILLIAMS. LOCAL PRESS ASSERTED PRIME MINISTERS'
PRESUMABLY JOINED BY BARBADOS' ERROL BARROW, WOULD DISCUSS
CARIBBEAN ISSUES SUCH AS INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO, RETURN OF
GUANTANAMO, AND PANAMA CANAL ISSUE.

4. THROUGHOUT CASTRO VISIT, CROWD RESPONSE WAS MIXTURE OF
CURIOSITY AND ENTHUSIASM. REPORTEDLY 3,000 PERSONS GREETED
CASTRO ON ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT AND MANY OTHERS LINED ROUTE TO
GEORGETOWN. EMB OFFICERS ESTIMATE ANOTHER 1,000 TO 1,500
PERSONS GATHERED OUTSIDE RESIDENCE OF PRESIDENT CHUNG. EMB
OFFICER ALSO NOTED LARGE TURNOUT IN AREAS NEAR GEORGETOWN TO
WATCH CASTRO MOTORCADE ON WAY TO LINDEN.

5. LEADER OF OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP)
CHEDDI JAGAN BOYCOTTED RECEPTION FOR CASTRO AS PART OF POLICY
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OF NON-COOPERATION WITH BURNHAM GOVT. HOWEVER, AT LEAST
PUBLICLY, JAGAN WELCOMED CASTRO. PLACARDS ON PPP HEADQUARTERS
READ: "PPP WELCOMES FIDEL, DOWN WITH GUYANA'S BATISTA REGIME".
KING

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